

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising a processing unit which, in a pair of images formed to generate a difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes, performs a process of reducing a difference other than a geometric difference between image structures corresponding to the parallax of both eyes.

2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pair of images are still images picked from a pair of video images formed to generate a difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes.

3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the difference other than the geometric difference between the image structures corresponding to the parallax of both eyes is a difference between noise components superposed on the pair of images.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the processing unit performs a process of reducing the difference between the superposed noise components.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the difference other than the geometric difference between the image structures corresponding to the parallax of

both eyes is a difference between colors in the pair of images.

6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the processing unit performs a process of reducing the difference between the colors.

7. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a recognition unit which recognizes the geometric difference between image structures corresponding to the parallax of both eyes in the pair of images, wherein

the processing unit performs a process of reducing a difference other than the geometric difference between the image structures recognized by the recognition unit in the pair of images.

8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the recognition unit recognizes the geometric difference between the image structures corresponding to the parallax of both eyes by performing matching between the pair of images.

9. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the processing unit performs, as the process of reducing the difference other than the geometric difference between the image structures, at least one of a process of removing a noise component superposed on only one of the pair of images from the one image or a process of correcting at least one of the pair

of images to eliminate or reduce a difference between noise components which are different from each other and superposed on corresponding regions on the pair of images.

10. An image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the processing unit divides the pair of images into sectional regions, determines a sectional region of the other image corresponding to a specific sectional region in the one image based on the geometric difference between image structures in the pair of images recognized by the recognition unit, and compares the sectional regions determined to be corresponding regions with each other for the respective sectional regions, so that a noise component which causes the difference other than the geometric difference between the image structures.

11. An image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the processing unit averages the noise components which are different from each other and superposed on the corresponding regions on the pair of images, and corrects at least one of the pair of images based on the averaged noise component.

12. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pair of images are digital images obtained by photographing the same scene by a plurality of image pickup

devices, relative positions of which are adjusted to generate the difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes, or by photographing the same scene at a plurality of positions to which a single image pickup device is sequentially moved to generate the difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes.

13. An image processing method of performing a process of reducing a difference other than a geometric difference between image structures corresponding to a parallax of both eyes in a pair of images formed to generate a difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes.

14. A storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to function as a processing unit which, in a pair of images formed to generate a difference corresponding to a parallax of both eyes, performs a process of reducing a difference other than a geometric difference between image structures corresponding to the parallax of both eyes.